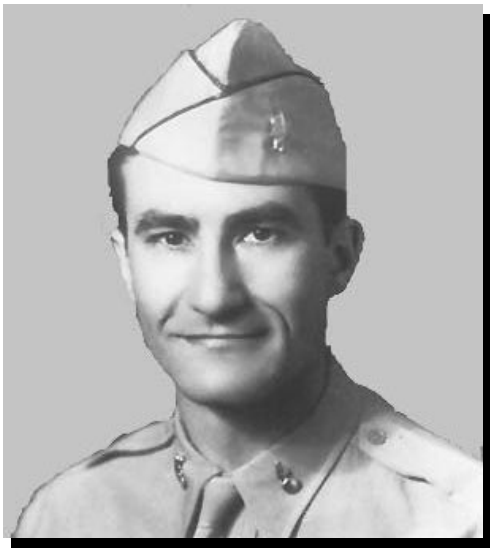
Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

1977 Inductees



Lieutenant Colonel Natale Cancilla

Lieutenant Colonel Natale Cancilla was born on December 25, 1908 and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1934. His contributions to ordnance have had lasting effects. His plan to increase the production of tanks during World War II was conceived and implemented in the face of great resistance and opposition. The antiquated, costly, and time-consuming product mobilization plan in effect at the beginning of World War II lacked the necessary logistical support. His plan was based on the fact that the United States had the resources for armor production and there was some semblance of a production mobilization plan. Colonel Cancilla knew there existed an abundance of production equipment and machinery scattered throughout the country. His plan called for locating the necessary machinery, diversifying the tank production and assembly process, and bringing together the right companies with the machines and equipment necessary to make them part of a production team. In less than one year, armor plate and armor casting were available to meet President Roosevelt's established production goals. Colonel Cancilla's plan saved enormous sums of money and production time by integrating committees and project officers into the project management process. His dedication and loyalty exemplify the traits of a professional Ordnance officer. His contributions have certainly added to the long list of significant deeds attributable to the Ordnance Corps.

Dr. Robert H. Goddard

Dr. Robert H. Goddard was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on October 5, 1882. Known as the father of U.S. rocketry, he began to speculate on a means of reaching the fringes of outer space through the use of rockets, while a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. By 1909, he had already anticipated achievements such as staged rockets, manned and unmanned spacecraft, and the establishment of a manned station on the moon. Between 1914 and 1916, he elaborated on the fundamental theory of rocket flight and experimented with small solid-propellant rocket motors. He began developing liquid rocket fuel and in 1926, launched the world's first liquid-propelled rocket. He demonstrated that rockets operated more efficiently in a vacuum than in atmosphere and developed the theory of rockets composed of several stages as a means of reaching the moon. During World War II, the U.S. Navy employed Dr. Goddard to develop rocket motors and jet-assisted take-off devices for aircraft. He was engaged in this work until his death in 1945. In 1962, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration dedicated the Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, to Dr. Goddard in recognition of his efforts in pioneering rocket development.

Major General Floyd A. Hansen

Major General Floyd A. Hansen was born in Washington on October 22, 1908 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1932. His career was marked by numerous responsible and demanding assignments. He encountered the greatest professional challenge of his career during the initial stages of the Vietnam conflict while serving as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Munitions Command. In an economy with no emergency powers or assurances on the duration of the conflict in Vietnam, General Hansen personally worked with top leaders of industry and persuaded them to support the needs of the military services for ammunition. During the buildup period, General Hansen's weekly reviews of critical items on a worldwide basis and his skillful orchestration of all interacting factors resulted in successful mission accomplishment. His achievement is extraordinary from the standpoint that with only one-third of the plants which existed during the World War II period, ammunition production during the Southeast Asian conflict period exceeded the ammunition production of World War II. After the Vietnam era, he developed the concepts to unify and improve conventional ammunition logistics. He envisioned a modern, automated Army ammunition reporting system similar to the system which exists today. As a visionary leader and munitions manager, he made a remarkable impact on the Ordnance profession and on defense logistics. General Hansen retired in 1967 and died in Washington, D.C. on May 24, 1986.

Major General John J. Hayes

Major General John J. Hayes was born on April 24, 1914. He distinguished himself and the U.S. Army Chemical Corps by his leadership and expertise in various logistical disciplines. His influence was particularly felt in the chemical and biological fields, where he displayed exceptional skill and detailed knowledge in the management of critical Army programs. One example of a vitally significant and major contribution by General Hayes was the completion of Operation Red Hat. During Operation Red Hat, he was responsible for the planning and execution of the movement of more than 10,000 tons of toxic chemical munitions from Okinawa to Johnston Island. This operation ranks as one of the most extraordinary and successful logistical operations accomplished by the Department of Defense. General Hayes epitomized the high traditions of the military profession and exemplified the best in achievement and perceptive management in research and development, procurement and production, and supply distribution and maintenance. General Hayes retired in 1972.

Mr. Vincent P. Huggard

Mr. Vincent P. Huggard was born on August 10, 1917. His contributions to Ordnance were many. Early in the Vietnam conflict, he was requested by the Secretary of Defense to manage the production, supply, and distribution of ground munitions in support of the conflict. Realizing that our ammunition production base was developed using pre-World War II technology, he became a driving force in obtaining congressional funding support for a comprehensive $7.5 billion modernization program. In 1972, he chaired a study group to determine the future direction the Army should take concerning tactical vehicles. Under his guidance, many procedural and policy changes were made which resulted in significant savings through a reduction in needed resources. He was the Army's foremost proponent in developing the need, the required command emphasis, and the funding support for a viable Army production base and industrial preparedness posture. The policies he instituted and the techniques he devised in the interest of this vital program are still in use today. He headed "Project Expedite," where time-consuming delays in executing procurement programs were isolated and appropriate corrective actions taken. The result was a more efficient utilization of limited procurement funding resources and substantial savings to the taxpayer. Serving the Department of the Army for more than 33 years, Mr. Huggard's managerial skills and logistics expertise are highly respected at all levels of the Federal Government. Mr. Huggard died on January 25, 1974.

Mr. Frank J. Jervey

Mr. Frank J. Jervey was born in Sommerville, South Carolina on November 27, 1893 and graduated from Clemson University in 1914. In World War II, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as a captain in the Army. He was completely and unselfishly devoted to duty and universally respected for his integrity, knowledge, and technical ability. His judgement was trusted implicitly by industry and government officials. During World War II, the production of ammunition was at such a monumental rate that it required the full effort of thirteen Government-owned and operated ammunition plants. His work was invaluable in securing industry cooperation, supplying technical know-how, and successfully attaining the production objectives. His technical advice was instrumental in developing substitute materials for copper, such as the clad metal bullet jacket and steel cartridge cases. During the Korean Conflict, he was deeply involved in establishing small arms ammunition centers, reactivating ordnance ammunition plants, and establishing new ammunition plants. His contributions permeated all phases of the small arms ammunition effort. Perhaps more valuable than any specific accomplishment was the constant encouragement and advice he gave to all ordnance personnel, both in government and industry. Even after his retirement in 1953, he continued to be active with several ordnance organizations, acting as a consultant. He truly served the Ordnance Corps in a long and illustrious career. Mr. Jervey died on May 6, 1983.

Mr. Eugene M. Stoner

Mr. Eugene M. Stoner was born on November 22, 1922. He has made outstanding contributions in the design, development, and production technology of small arms weaponry and ammunition. A formal listing of Mr. Stoner's accomplishments during the past two decades in armament systems is most impressive. As designer and developer of the M16 rifle and the 5.56mm round of ammunition, he has advanced the state-of-the-art in weaponry not only in America but all over the world. Now, others of his weapons systems are being evaluated by the Army. He has served as advisor and consultant for many armament and ordnance companies as well as serving on the Small Arms Committee for the office of the Secretary of Defense. His genius lies in his innate and unique ability to understand the required military characteristics of a modern automatic weapons system and to conceive designs which embody excellent human engineering features. His record of success is shared by very few. In 1978, he held over 100 patents in ordnance equipment ranging from small-caliber survival rifles to a medium-sized high-velocity, rapid-fire cannon. Mr. Stoner is president, co-founder, and chief executive of the Ares Corporation in Port Clinton, Ohio.